

COUNTRY
Germans (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

Military Information from the Naumburg Area

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EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 27 March 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS 25X1

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The following troop trains were unloaded at the Buttstadt (N 52/J 58) railroad station between 7 and 10 March: 2 trains with soldiers, 1 train with tanks, and 1 train with trucks and sedans in the afternoon on 7 March; 1 train with soldiers, and 2 trains with trucks and sedans on the morning of 8 March; and 1 train with soldiers in the afternoon of 10 March. *

4.

Two troop trains carrying trucks and sedans and which headed toward Buttstadt were observed at the Gross Heringen (N 52/J 58) railroad station on 10 March. From 80 to 100 soldiers were seen trenching about 800 meters east of Vogelsberg (N 52/J 48) on 12 March. An acquaintance of source stated that the unloaded troops moved to the Finne Hills, an almost deforested area, where no Soviet troops have been since 1945. An employee

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at the Gross Heringen railroad station said on 14 March that Soviet troop trains passed daily toward Buttstaedt on and after 7 March. The population had no advance warning of the troop movements. *

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25X1 5. A total of 20 troop trains including shipments of tanks and rocket launchers was said to have been unloaded in Buttstaedt. The troops bivouaked in the woods of the Finne, Schrecke, Schmucke and Hainleite Hills. *

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6. On 8 March, [redacted] field exercises were being held by Soviet troops in the Landaau (N 52/J 98) - Kleinhelmsdorf area. **

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* [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the field exercises in the area northwest of Naumburg started on about 3 March 1952. Numerous reports have been received on the movements of Soviet troops to the training area until 10 March. Buttstaedt and Rossleben have been reported as the unloading stations. The troop movements to this area are specified as follows:

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28 February. A signal unit of the COFC from Drewitz to Naumburg; and a Troop train carrying a headquarters unit of the First Cds Mecz Army observed in Weissenfels.

29 February. Departure of the Hq 57th Cds Mtz Rifle Div from Naumburg toward Weissenfels.

1 through 3 March. Loading of small signal units of the Eighth Cds Army in Weimar.

3 March. Movements by road and rail of the 6th and 7th Cds Tank Div through Rossau toward Dessau.

6 March. A Fourth Cds Mecz Army signal unit in Finow; and a troop train from Finow to Naumburg passing through Oranienburg.

8 through 10 March. Probably six troop trains coming from a northerly direction and passing through Halle toward Rossleben and Erfurt, which carried among others, vehicles of the headquarters signal troops of the Third Shock Army, the 6th Cds Tank Div, the 14th Cds Mecz Div, and of headquarters units of the Third Cds Mecz Army; and additional three troop trains which passed through Halle during the night of 9 March.

10 March. Three troop trains, including one train with vehicles of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div, in Koethen and on the Bitterfeld-Halle-Leipzig railroad line; and one troop train with elements of the Hq IV Arty Corps from Rathenow to Buttstaedt. This is also true for the troop trains mentioned in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, although the information cannot be confirmed in detail to date. No heavy weapons were observed on the troop trains listed but it is possible that several command tanks were also unloaded in Buttstaedt.

The fact that no heavy weapons were noticed and radio trucks and other signal equipment were repeatedly seen in connection with army signal units as well as the observation that troops apparently remained at the same place for a prolonged period are indicative of a signal command-post exercise. It was noted that the troops were quartered only on the south banks of the Unstrut River and Wipper River which indicates two possibilities for the operational problem:

a. The forces deployed on the south banks of the two rivers had to stave off enemy forces attacking from the north-east.

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- b. The forces were assembled in an area south of the two rivers to launch an offensive in a northeasterly direction.

Further information on the training area and the railroad stations used by troops returning to their home stations may indicate the actual operational line of the command-post exercise. The four troop trains which probably carried units of the Second Gds Mecz Army from Fuerstenberg to Dessau on 7 and 9 March favor the first alternative provided that this movement was connected with the command-post exercise. [REDACTED]

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Units identified [REDACTED] in the training area until 14 March included: units of the GOCG from Potsdam, components of the 6th Arty Div and the 6th (?) Gds AAA Div; headquarters troops and the Hq Third Shock Army; the 80th Gds Hv Tank SR Regt of the 9th Mecz Div from Spremberg; the 13th AAA Div, and a signal battalion of the 21st Gds Mecz Div from Spremberg; the 13th AAA Div, a signal battalion of the 21st Gds Mecz Div, and headquarters units of the XXIX Gds Itz Rifle Corps; a signal unit of the Second Gds Mecz Army; and ground units of bomber regiments of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. It is believed therefore, that the command-post exercise involved detachments of the GOCG, the six armies, and the IV Arty Corps.

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[REDACTED] Comment. It cannot be determined whether the field exercise west of Zeitz mentioned in paragraph 6 was connected with the command-post exercise northwest of Naumburg.

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